

EARLY CHURCH HISTORY RECALLED

History of Christ Church, St. Helens, Columbia County, Ore.

Early in 1851, the General Board of Missions in New York sent out its first missionary to Oregon, in the person of the Reverend William Richmond, and among the instructions given him we note the following:

"The portion of Oregon to which, under the present advisement, they should especially direct his attention, that known as the lower valley of the Willamette, comprehending some twenty-five miles on the Columbia, as to include on that river the villages of St. Helens and Milton, and Fort Vancouver; and on the Willamette, the towns of Portland, Clackamas and Oregon City."

On April 28, 1853, the Rev. J. McCarty, D. D., "visited St. Helens, a small village on the south bank of the Columbia, about thirty miles above Portland, and officiated there the evening to a small congregation, and I could not find any Episcopalians in the place; but there are

when he preached and confirmed six persons, and expressed great pleasure at the good work accomplished and the promising outlook for its future growth and permanency."

In the Journal for 1901, Bishop Morris states in his annual address: "There have been changes and improvements in connection with the missionary work in the southern part of the city properly noticed in this connection. In the month of January, the Rev. Wm. Muhlenberg Breck, from the Diocese of California, took charge of St. Matthew's TWO—Early Church

chapel, connecting with it the charge of St. John's Memorial church, Sellwood, and of Christ Church, St. Helens, 30 miles distant on the Columbia river.

"This represents an extensive and varied field of work—one for which Mr. Breck is well qualified by years of experience in both city and country districts. St. Helens is rather an unprogressive town, but one of special interest to us, as one of the first places where the services of our church were held, by the Rev. Dr. McCarty, before Oregon had its first bishop. We have a nice church building there, which we owe largely



CHRIST CHURCH

or three at Milton, about two miles distant (where the Rev. Mr. Richmond officiated several times) which place I visited next day. As St. Helens is likely to become a place of some importance, I intend to visit occasionally as I can find time."

Again Dr. McCarty writes, "The evening of the 16th of March (1854) held service at the small village of St. Helens. The congregation was small but there are two families and some individuals attached to our church."

In 1855, the Right Reverend Thomas F. Scott, the first missionary bishop to Oregon, in his report to the Synod, speaks of one visit to St. Helens.

These are the earliest recorded visits to the town of St. Helens. We do not find any further record until 1881, when the Reverend James R. Sellwood, in his report to the Synod, mentions holding twenty-three services at "St. Helens in the Methodist church."

These services are recorded by the Rev. James Sellwood until 1888. In the Journal of 1892 he reported, "that with my advanced age

to the missionary zeal of the present rector of St. David's—and the few communicants earnestly devoted to interests of the church there, small as it is at present: It is a place that I should very much regret to give up, and one where I believe that patient, persevering pastoral work will in time bring forth good fruit."

The Reverend Mr. Breck succeeded Dr. Van Waters in the care of St. Helens, and still visits there twice a month.

Christ Mission, St. Helens, did not appear in the list of unorganized missions of the Diocese until the year 1900, and became an organized mission in 1912. In the year 1907, Mrs. Bell Sellwood interested the Sunday schools of the Diocese in raising money for a bell for the mission, and turned over \$32. Then Mr. James Muckle came forward with the generous gift of the balance necessary, and a bell weighing 800 pounds and costing \$100, was purchased.

The Ladies' Guild had raised money for a tower, which was erected the same year.

It is a deep-toned bell and is greatly appreciated by the people. About



GUILD HALL

and feebleness of body and sight, I have not been able to do any ministerial work during the year." In the Journal of 1897, the Reverend George B. Van Waters, makes the following report:

"Services have been held at St. Helens, on the Columbia river, with more or less regularity, during the past year. A most eligible lot has been given to the Diocese by Mrs. Hannah Thyzewicz, Mr. James Muckle and Mr. Charles Muckle; and on March the 15th the rector of St. David's church laid the cornerstone of an edifice to be known as Christ Church. There is now erected a neat gothic structure, costing some \$500. In addition to \$105 furnished by the bishop, generous contributions have been made by the people of St. Helens, in the matter of labor and material for the church building. We are in hopes that before very long a chancel and vestry room will be added to the building, and the whole properly appointed. It speaks well for the interest and faithfulness of the few church people at St. Helens

—there are all about 20 communicants—to say that, despite the hard times, the little church is almost free from debt. The bishop paid a visit to this mission on the 9th of June,

steam heat from the mill, both in the church and hall, costing \$200.

After the Guild hall was built, the church did not harmonize, so this last summer, it was decided to shingle the church all over, and paint or stain it to correspond with the hall. This last undertaking of the Guild cost about \$250, and the debt is only about \$100.

Now, Christ Church Mission possesses a fine piece of property, the envy of the town. Ten thousand times we say, "what would the church do without the women?" but in St. Helens the men are also good backers. Our property is now worth \$8000.

As the mission has grown materially, so there has been a spiritual growth. The Journal for 1907 reported six communicants and only four of these active. This year we report 32 resident communicants and last Easter every one was present and received.

There are 22 members in the Guild. Mrs. M. E. Miller is president, Mrs. Edwin Ross, vice president; Mrs. Robert Dixon, treasurer; and Miss Beryl Muckle, secretary.

The hope of the people of St. Helens is, that they may soon have a resident clergyman, not only to care for the growing work of St. Helens and vicinity, but the towns of Rainier, Goble and Scappoose.—Oregon Churchman.

ABOUT OREGON

You have no doubt read the verses about Michigan, and I will own that they were great;

But I am about to compose some all about a greater state.

I have traveled some since I left the East; some country did I see;

But of all the places on the map, it's Oregon for me.

You may get aboard the train, and whichever way you ride,

You can see great cities built on the mountain side.

You hear the frogs in winter singing and you see the butterfly.

You never see this in the East, and you know the reason why.

We have all kinds of fruit and our rivers teem with fish.

We have fresh salmon by the ton; it makes a very fine dish.

You may travel, yes. You may go from coast to coast.

But of all the climates in the end of Oregon you will boast.

It is not cold in the winter and in the summer it is fine;

For we always have a lovely breeze off from the ocean's brine.

We have berries here in June and we have them in November;

I never saw this in Michigan, as I can remember.

There is no great amount of wages, that is paid in Oregon for rent,

For the climate is so very mild that you can live out in a tent.

You can see the evergreens wherever you may go,

And all winter in the valleys, they never have snow.

There is some beautiful scenery; you have read of them in the book.

They are the beautiful mountains, and on them you may look.

I looked out in the morning, and far away it stood,

That beautiful mountain, the one they call Mount Hood.

There is another beautiful sight, and it is when the sky is clear,

You can see, though several miles away, the one they call Rainier.

So, of all the climates that I ever did span,

I think there is just one that beats Old Michigan.

—Composed by Hiram Mercer.

COURT PROCEEDINGS

Saturday, December 18, 1915. 5th Judicial day.

Court came pursuant to adjournment. Officers all present, except Commissioner Weed. Due proclamation being made, the following proceedings were had:

In the matter of the improvement of L. R. Frink road:

Whereas, call for bids for improving the L. R. Frink road, in Road District No. 1, having been heretofore duly published, giving notice that such bids would be opened on the 18th day of December, 1915, at 2 o'clock p. m., now, on this 18th day of December, it appearing to the Court that no bids have been submitted for said improvement, it is ordered by the Court that such work be performed by the road supervisor, under the direction of the Court.

Whereupon, Court adjourned until Wednesday, December 29th, 1915.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that G. E. Farnsworth, as acting roadmaster, has filed his certificate of completion of the following named contracts performed by F. C. McGraw, in Road District No. 7, Division 4, 1915. Special road improvement.

Specifications Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, on Pebble Creek road.

Specifications Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, Beaver Creek road.

All protests against the acceptance of these contracts must be filed in the office of the County Clerk within two

weeks from the date of first publication of this notice.

Date of first publication, December 24th, 1915.

A. F. BARNETT, County Clerk.

NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT AND SETTLEMENT

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Columbia. In the matter of the estate of Edward Frederick Vosburg, deceased. Notice is hereby given that George B. Van Waters, administrator of the estate of Edward Frederick Vosburg, deceased, has filed his final account as such administrator of said estate in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Columbia, and that said court has appointed and set Monday, the 17th day of January, A. D. 1916, at 9:30 o'clock, a. m., of said day, in the courtroom of said court, in St. Helens, in said County and State, as the time and place for the hearing of objections to said final account and the settlement thereof, and that all persons interested in said estate may appear on or before said date and file any objections thereto.

Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, December 17th, 1915.

GEORGE B. VAN WATERS, Administrator of the Estate of Edward Frederick Vosburg, Deceased. T. H. Ward, Attorney. 52-5t

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Eastern and Olympia Oysters Little Neck Clams.

LODGES

Mizpah Chapter O. E. S. meets in Masonic Hall the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

IRENE M. DAY, W. M. E. A. ROTGER, Secretary.

Kiwanis Tribe No. 63, Improved Order of Redmen, meets second and fourth Thursdays of each month in K. of P. hall, St. Helens. Visiting brethren welcome.

E. I. BALLAGH, C. of R.

St. Helens Rebekah Lodge, No. 217, meets first and third Thursday of each month in I. O. O. F. Hall. Visiting members always welcome. MARY E. CHRISTIE, N. G. ORA BENNETT, Sec.

Houlton Circle No. 478, Women of Woodcraft, meets the second and fourth Tuesday afternoon of each month at Houlton, Oregon. AGNES DIXON, G. N. ANNA RICHARDSON, Clerk.

Columbia Encampment, No. 77, I. O. O. F. meets in the I. O. O. F. Hall, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Sojourning Patriarchs most cordially invited to meet with us.

CHAS. M. BEELER, C. P. C. W. BLAKESLEY, Scribe.

Avon Lodge No. 62 Knights of Pythias meets every Tuesday evening in Castle Hall, St. Helens. Visiting Knights always welcome.

E. A. ROTGER, C. C. M. E. MILLER, K. of R. S.

St. Helens Lodge No. 32, A. F. & A. M. meets 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month. Visiting brothers cordially welcomed. EDWIN ROSS, Master.

E. E. QUICK, Secretary.

St. Helens Lodge No. 117, I. O. O. F. meets in the I. O. O. F. building, on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, visiting members are always given a hearty welcome.

JESSE LANSING, N. G. C. W. BLAKESLEY, Sec.

Tillamook Tribe No. 52, Improved O. R. M., of Yankton, Ore., meets at its wigwam, second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

W. G. BRANNON, C. of R. EBER BROWN, Sach.

A Merry Christmas

To you and yours the Columbia County Bank wishes a Merry Christmas—a Christmas Day whose joys may abide with you through many, many days to come. With Tiny Tim we join in a "God Bless every one!"

Remember, you can bank here by Mail and have the Christmas Bank Book in time.

Columbia County Bank

St. Helens, Ore.

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